

What did we find?

During the course of fieldwork, KSK recovered a variety of artifacts dating to the late 19th and early 20th century. They included fragments of a child's toy car, pieces of a comb made from tortoise shell, fragments of glass and ceramics - such as whiteware, creamware, pearlware, and redware, dating from the 1800's through the mid 1900's, a button made from a Abolone shell, a



Test excavations showing remnants of a buried foundation wall

hand blown light bulb dating to 1879, and a 1864 copper "Indian Head" penny. Through artifacts recovered such as oyster shell and various types of animal bones we are able to get an idea as to the diet of these people. Also through artifacts such as horseshoes and glass bottles, alcohol and pharmaceutical, we are able to get a glimpse of what every day life was like for these people. After excavating, all the artifacts are taken to our lab where each individual artifacts is cleaned, using brushes and dental picks, and given its own label.

Following discussions with officials with DelDOT and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DESHPO) it was decided that additional, or

Phase II, archaeological studies needed to be performed on the historic site discovered. Archaeologist are currently excavating a larger sample of the site and trying to carefully collect more of the artifacts made and used by the early settlers who once lived there. They are also looking for other evidence of daily life at the site, such as abandoned outbuildings, refuse pits, or signs of the structures people once lived in. It is hoped that detailed studies of the artifacts from this site will reveal important information about when this spot was occupied by the early residents of Hockessin.

For More Information Please Contact:

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Example of a child's toy: Late 1700's cast iron toy gun



(800) 652-5600

Cultural Resource Survey of S.R. 41 in Hockessin Delaware



(Source: Baist, Map of New Castle County, 1893)

Please feel free to stop by, (June 5th through 19th), if you have any questions or interest in Archaeology.

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Recreational area located at the intersection of S.R. 41 and Old Lancaster Pike

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) is planning to make improvements to State Route 41 in Hockessin, New Castle County. As a project funded in part by Federal money DelDOT is required, by the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, to conduct a Cultural Resource Survey of the construction area prior to the start of roadway work. The purpose of these studies is to find out if there are any potentially important historical or prehistoric Native American sites present in the work zone that might be damaged or destroyed by construction activities.

If such sites are present, efforts are then made to record the historical information these places contain, and to use this knowledge to improve our understanding of the people and past events that helped shape our present day lives.

This brochure was designed to provide members of the community with information about this project and was produced as part of DelDOT's continuing efforts to promote, and involve Delaware residents in the discovery of the state's rich historical heritage. Historic Architecture and Archaeological studies for this project are being performed by Kise, Straw, & Kolodner (KSK) for Whitman, Requardt & Associates (WRA), the engineering firm contracted to oversee the project, and for DelDOT.

History

The Hockessin vicinity has a long and varied historical legacy, and contains many important architectural and archaeological resources. Hockessin, or "place of many foxes", was originally part of Letitia Manor, a 15,000-acre estate given by William Penn to his daughter. Industries, such as mushroom cultivation and kaolin mining, have been significant Hockessin industries since the 1870s. Mushroom cultivation, which began in Kennett Square in 1885 and spilled over into the Hockessin area in 1910, has become one of Delaware's significant agricultural industries. Delaware is ranked third in the nation, behind Pennsylvania and California, in commercial mushroom production.



General Store, located at 1214 Old Lancaster Pike.

Early atlas's show five houses along this section of Old Lancaster Pike in 1868, including the Hockessin Post Office. This property, located along the north side of SR 41 in Hockessin, Delaware, contains a two-story Greek Revival masonry dwelling, determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in November 2000 by the New Castle County Planning Department, was built circa 1850. The Old Lancaster Turnpike was completed shortly after 1808, connecting the farms of Lancaster, Pennsylvania with Wilmington via Hockessin. The town experienced a significant boom after the Wilmington and Western Railroad reached the town in 1872. The Wilmington and Western Railroad through Hockessin opened for freight and passenger service on October 19, 1872. The line originally transported Kaolin Clay, vulcanized fiber materials, snuff, iron, and coal between downtown Wilmington, Delaware and Landenberg, Pennsylvania via the Red Clay Valley.

Initial Phase I Cultural resource Surveys of the Hockessin State Route 41 project area were completed in the fall of 2001 and spring of 2002. KSK personnel conducted limited archaeological testing within the construction zone. As a result of these investigations KSK discovered evidence of buried remnant historic structures, more than half of the historic buildings within the area date from circa 1880, used by the early residents of Hockessin. KSK found the buried foundation walls of a structure located at the intersection of Old Lancaster Pike and Valley Road. This structure appears on maps dating from the 1800's through early 1900's. The early maps of Hockessin indicate a two story frame structure with associated barn and out buildings was located at the intersection near Mill Creek.



Example of a cup dating to early 19th century



Archaeologist's in action, excavating a one meter square unit.